

MAR 08 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE TO STUDY THE IMPACT AND FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A
TEACHING HOSPITAL IN WEST HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii faces a growing shortage of physicians to
2 provide direct care to patients; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Physician Workforce Project reported in
5 October 2018 that Hawaii had a shortage of five hundred thirteen
6 full-time equivalent positions; and

7
8 WHEREAS, when adjusted for island geography and unmet
9 specialty-specific needs by county, the estimated unmet need for
10 physicians was seven hundred ninety-seven positions, an increase
11 from seven hundred sixty-nine positions in the previous year;
12 and

13
14 WHEREAS, the County of Hawaii has a large and medically
15 underserved rural community; and

16
17 WHEREAS, the residential population of Hawaii island is one
18 of the fastest growing populations in the State; and

19
20 WHEREAS, the County of Hawaii welcomes a large number of
21 domestic and international visitors throughout the year; and

22
23 WHEREAS, a teaching hospital on Hawaii island may help to
24 attract and retain a high-quality, diverse physician workforce
25 to the State; and

26
27 WHEREAS, additionally, a teaching hospital will provide a
28 broader and more complete network of care for individuals on
29 Hawaii island; and

30
31 WHEREAS, in 2016, the Legislature recognized the potential
32 benefits of a teaching hospital on Hawaii island by
33 appropriating \$500,000 for a feasibility study for a teaching
34 hospital in Kona; and
35



1 WHEREAS, however, the appropriated funds lapsed prior to
2 the initiation of the study; now, therefore,

3
4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
5 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the
6 University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine is
7 encouraged to study the impact and feasibility of creating a
8 teaching hospital in west Hawaii; and
9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the University of Hawaii John A.
11 Burns School of Medicine is requested to submit a report of its
12 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
13 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
14 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2020; and
15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the University
18 of Hawaii Board of Regents, President of the University of
19 Hawaii, and Dean of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns
20 School of Medicine.
21
22
23

OFFERED BY:


Michelle Tidoni
Kurt Ferrell

